

Gangs and Gang Violence in America
Sociology 3570-090
3 Credit Hours

Instructor: Bruce Rigby

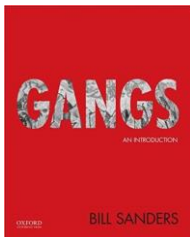
Summer 2019

Class Meetings: This is an Online course

Office: BEHS 308 (Campus) Office Hours: By appointment

E-mail: bruce.rigby@soc.utah.edu or Canvas mail feature

Text: Gangs: An Introduction, Bill Sanders, 2016, Oxford University Press,
ISBN: 978-0199948598



*****Some material in this class, the learning modules, and videos is rated “R” for violent and vulgar content and is as it appears in the real world of gangs and gang life*****

Course Description

This course will examine the history and development of gang culture in America. From the beginnings of immigrant gangs in the 1800's to present day gang activity, classified as “organized crime” by many in law enforcement, we will examine the development of modern gang activity and violence in contemporary society.

The course will explore the effects of race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, and family structure on the growth of gang affiliation and activity. Sociological theory will be used to gain an understanding of gangs and gang activity historically and in contemporary society.

This class will include textbook resources, presentations created by your instructor, and online presentations prepared by youth counselors and members of law enforcement. Your instructor has been working with members of the Salt Lake Area Metro Gang Unit, U.S. Marshalls Service

and Youth Gang Experts for over 10 years in an effort to keep this class updated, accurate, and relevant in our current time.

The online resources will include learning modules prepared by your instructor, members of law enforcement, juvenile justice professionals, and social workers who deal with gang involved youth in their professional lives. These modules will explore not only current gang activity in our communities, but the long-term effects of these criminal groups on the larger society.

The increased attention on gang activity by law enforcement and the legal system will be examined and the effectiveness of their efforts will be discussed.

The primary goals of the course are:

1. To understand the historical development of gangs in America and the sociological concepts used to understand gangs and gang life.
2. To define gangs and gang membership. We will discuss street gangs, prison gangs, outlaw motorcycle gangs, and other criminal organizations in our communities.
3. To develop a sense of how gangs have evolved into large networks of organized crime in our society. We will also discuss many of the sociological impacts of gangs and organized crime in society.
4. To evaluate and discuss sociological theories explaining the social factors leading to gang membership and activity.
5. To examine the role of law enforcement, the legal system, and the prison system regarding gang membership and activity.
6. To examine some of the prevention and intervention programs used nationally and locally in combatting gang activity and violence.

Grading Procedures

The final course grade will be determined by your performance on 2 equally weighted objective/short answer type examinations. The examinations will cover materials from the text, discussion topics, and the online learning modules. The examinations will contribute 2/3 of your final grade with the remaining 1/3 being determined by the 5 online discussion boards on topics assigned by your instructor. Discussion postings are expected to be a complete analysis and commentary on the topics assigned.

Exams

The exams will consist of both multiple choice and short answer type questions. The exams will cover the material from the textbook readings,

ppt presentations from the text, and the online learning modules. I will post a detailed review for each exam about 1 week prior to the exam.

The exams will be taken online via the "Quizzes" function in Canvas. The exams will be available for a 24 hour time period. Each exam must be taken within that time frame. Make-up exams will only be offered in the cases of student hospitalization during the exam period or a death in the immediate family.

Class Participation

Participation in the online class discussions is an important part of the learning experience in my classes. I strongly encourage students to read all the postings from their classmates in addition to submitting their own postings.

The key to success in this class is to stay caught up with the readings and learning modules. I also suggest that students login and view the online course announcements and other postings frequently.

Discussion Boards (Reflections)

The 5 required discussion postings for this course will be on relevant topics discussed in the class, and will explore the students' reactions and feelings about that specific topic. These discussions require the student to analyze specific topics/issues related to gang activity and explore the social impacts of various aspects of gang life. Each posting should be 3 - 4 pages in length and be a thoughtful analysis of the topics. Discussions must be posted to the discussion stream on time. Late discussions are never accepted in this class.

Learning Modules

There is an online learning module for each week of this course. They are accessed through the "Modules" tab on the left side of the course homepage. Some modules contain full presentations such as "Gangs 101", "OMG's" and "Drugs and Gangs". Others simply contain a brief summary of the text material and a list of key concepts for those chapters. Modules 7 and 12 will contain the reviews for the exams once they are available. Please be certain to review these modules each week.

Tentative Schedule:

Week 1 (May 13 - 17) Gangs 101

Week 2 (May 20 - 24) Research, Risks, and Definitions

Week 3 (May 27 - 31) Migration, Race, and Females in Gangs

Week 4 (June 3 - 7) Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs

Week 5 (June 10 - 14) Drugs, Violence, and Cartels

Week 6 (June 17 - 21) Review and Exam #1

Exam #1 Date TBA

Week 7 (June 24 - 28) Music, Style, and Media

Week 8 (July 1 - 5) Theories on Gangs and Gang Behaviors

Week 9 (July 8 - 12) Prison Gangs

Week 10 (July 15 - 19) Public Health and Youth Gang Involvement

Week 11 (July 22 - 26) Suppression, Intervention, and Prevention

Week 12 (July 29 - 31) Review and Exam #2

Notice About Academic Misconduct: Per University of Utah regulations (Policy #6-400) “A student who engages in academic misconduct” as defined in Part I.B. and including but not limited to cheating, falsification, or plagiarism, “may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student’s degree or certificate. Sanctions may also include community service, a written reprimand, and/or a written statement of misconduct that can be put into an appropriate record maintained for purposes of the profession or discipline for which the student is preparing.” Please refer to the Student Code for full elaboration of student academic and behavioral misconduct policies (<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>).

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) require the following to be included in all syllabi:

“The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020

(V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.”

Title IX: Addressing Sexual Misconduct. Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran’s status, or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677 (COPS).

*****Notice: Some of the material in this course is rated “R” for violent and vulgar content. The learning modules and videos in the class appear as they do in a live presentation*****

This is a preliminary syllabus and may be subject to change prior to the beginning of classes on May 13, 2019

CSBS EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

CSBS EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN



BUILDING EVACUATION



EAP (Emergency Assembly Point) – When you receive a notification to evacuate a building either by campus text alert system or by building fire alarm, please proceed in an orderly fashion to the EAP designated for that building. Once everyone is at the EAP, you will receive further instructions from Emergency Management personnel. You can look up the EAP for any building you may be in on campus at <http://emergencymanagement.utah.edu/eap>.

CAMPUS RESOURCES



U Heads Up App: There's an app for that. Download the app on your smartphone at alert.utah.edu/headsup to access the following resources:

- **Emergency Response Guide:** Provides instructions on how to handle any type of emergency, such as earthquake, utility failure, fire, active shooter, etc. Flip charts with this information are also available around campus.
- **See Something, Say Something:** Report unsafe or hazardous conditions on campus. If you see a life threatening or emergency situation, please call 911!

Safety Escorts: For students who are on campus at night or past business hours and would like an escort to your car, please call 801-585-2677. You can call 24/7 and a security officer will be sent to walk with you or give you a ride to your desired on-campus location.